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J. R. JORDAN, Manager.

THE DALLAS EXPRESS has

never holated the white feather, neither has it been disgraced by the yellow streak. It is not affiliated with the flannel mouth. It is a plain, every day, sensible, conservative newspaper, which trims no sail to catch the passing breeze; flies no doubtful flag. It professes a patriotism as broad as our country. Its love of even handed justice covers all the territory occupied by the human race. This is pretty high ground, but we live on it and are prospering. Boys of the press come up and stand with us. This ground is holy. W. E. KING.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1919. A PROTEST AGAINST THE CHARGE OF INFERIORITY.

white and the black races have jointly occupied the American continent approximately the same length of time. Therefore, in so far as physical environments are con-cerned the two races, except in ages preceding the taking up of their abode upon American soil, have been ages, anterior to ttheir arrival in America may have been the period in which physical conditions had wrought her greatest affects upon beginning of their career in this had been for more propitious, that than those of their Colored brother. This is, of course, assuming the

common origin of the human family. Having accepted this assumption, we must concede that the differences ces of environments and sex-

The traditions, customs and laws of a people together with the physi-cal conditions of the land in which they dwell constitute that which we we are thankful that our thought habits h their environments. These are the most potent factors that assist or retard in the

The great gulf that lay between the two races at the beginning of existance upon American was no more nor less than which divides the barbarian the two races have arled so much as that between that of master and slave the great gap In fact the development of egro has been so phenominal even under the most adverse con-

that now confronts the

have been able to discover plausible duty, bravely and nobily done by His aid and our effort. called delinquencies of the newly made Negro citizens are due to innate race deficiencies and to what extent it is due to the social erted that the conditions under hich the Negro has been compelled to exist and rear his progeny is more than sufficient to account for any and all his yet discount for few years, could not have been ex-pected even by his most ardent friends. It is upon this grounds nowever, that his enemies have en-camped and attempted to rear a in him. monument to his "inferiority." When We as re consider the short time the Ne-ro has had for the assimilation of he arduous duties of citizenship and he comparative ignorance under thich he began his tack and the eat handicap under which he has ored on account of the lack of open guidance and opportunity, it a marvel that he has been ablo make the progress of which he is justly proud. After having weighso justly proud. After having wender of carefully all the extenualing communications it is little less than segious to even suggest racial "in-prity." To assert it as a fect in of the indisputable evidence to contrary is criminal linel against ace that holds so much promise, ce forward be it understood that since forward be it understood that a failure of the Negro to reply the false charge of "inferiority" es not imply his acknowledgement guilt but is an indication of his nampt not only for the baseness such a charge but also for the

### DISCONTENT

The splendid discontent of God Sets suns in place, and filled all space With stars that shone and whirled
If ages had been contented with tails
No thing of higher shape
Had come to birth, the king of earth

Today would be an ape. And from the discontent of man
The world's best progress springs.
Then feed the flame—(from God it

Until you mount on wings. (By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.)

## WE ARE THANKFUL.

The custom of America of stopping in its busy career of planning, producing and making of itself the greatest nation on earth is being followed out during this, Thanksgiving week, Thursday marks the passage of another yearly mile-stone in America's journey toward actual practical Democracy and we therefore stop and, looking backward, recount blessings and give thanks.

One year ago the whole world joined in one gigantic, earth filling volume of thankfulness for the close of the great war with its accompanying strife, privation, sacrifice and suffering. Today finds that same world perplexed and struggling with the problems of reconstruction and moving on into its real stride which marks definite progress.

In America especially these problems of reconstruction have seemed perplexing and in some cases almost insurmountable. Strikes, Revolutionists, Treaties and their accompanying possibilities for future national good or evil, and above all an unusual and inexplicable unrest and disturbance of the public mind have claimed the minds and hearts of those in authority but in spite of them all America is thankful.

We, as a part of the American citizenry are thankful and our thanksgiving is of a peculiarly genuine sort. During the year just past there have been instances never before heard of that have given us to feel as never before that our struggle toward a realization of the opportunities of the other American citizens is not in vain. We have at last learned in a practical way that unity of purpose is the greatest asset of any struggling body. We have begun to spread out in the commercial world to such an extent that we bid fair to become an indispensable factor in American commerce. Our schools are being improved and best of all we have begun to let the world know that our Race consciousness is to be reckoned with.

We are thankful for many specific things which have not been ours in the years that have passed.

We are thankful for our increased material prosperity. It is a matter of common knowledge that during the past year Negroes have purchased more homes, engaged in more and larger business ventures, done more consistent saving than ever before. The realization that beggars are never shapers of their own destines has come to us and we fully intend that the extolling in the highest terms the Colored soldiers of the 92nd Division scheme of production in America shall benefit to an increased extent by our presence in it.

We are thankful for more democratic and better equipped schools. For many years the meager decrease in our illiteracy has been due to a lack full name and affixing his military title thereto to attest to their genuineness of school facilities. When these facilities are increased so that they affect and several other states have materially bettered their school conditions it would appear from your editorial referred to that between you and Col. for Negroes and while we realize that our public school facilities are not nearly what they should be, we are thankful that public conscience has soldir—even those who fell on Flanders field to assassinate the Colored waters. even a small percentage of us we are thankful for we realize that ignorance rendered such improvement as is, possible.

We are thankful for the forward movement in church life in our be half. Never before in the history of the Negro in America have the leading affected. However, the Denominations so frankly expressed themselves in his behalf. Never be- throughout the 92nd Division is correct, alleging that a Colored officer against his opposers, has ever been fore have they as a body shown that they interpreted the teaching of the thrashed him-his superior- for directing abusive, profane words to him heard. lowly Nazarene in terms of the Negro. Heretofore we have always been amazed at the peculiar religion of Christ which included Chinese, Sudanese the characteristics of the two races. Hottentots and excluded the American Negro from the plan of organized indeed, the great dispority between the development of the white and the black races at the time of the sympathy and Christian kindness. For this fact we are especially thank- allowed to resign. I repeat, if this report is correct, I can understand the political greetings over hard fought

We are thankful that at last in this Southland where we live, the exbeginning of their career in this country would indicate that the phycountry would indicate that the phypressions of an ever increasing number of our neighbors and potential his Division in numerous general orders and then assailing them after the can of the white race frinds, give us to feel that our repeated demands for that which belongs armistic had been signed, but I am at a loss to understand your antagonism, if its ruins, but I am at a loss to understand your antagonism, if its ruins, but I am at a loss to understand your antagonism, if its ruins, but I am at a loss to understand your antagonism. to us as American citizens will eventually be ours because Public Opinion is changing slowly but surely,

We are thankful that to a wonderful extent we have become a race of wider readers than ever before and our questions and our relations with I know every statement you and Col. Greer make is brutally false, a damothers are discussed and thought over by the average number of our Race. nable injustice to the hundreds of Colored soldiers whose blood dyed and in the development among the races of mankind must be owing to the This fact above all others is far reaching in its future effects upon our condition generally. It means that unity of thought, unity of action and purpose will make themselves felt more and more in our civic and economic lives for we have found a common meeting place and general clear- of Dec. 6 as false.

come the consciousness that within us lies the power of our own salvation supporting Col. Greer's letter as false. The testimony of Gen. Branum, he recognized Wm. M. McDonald as it becomes necessary that it should come the consciousness that within us lies the power of our own salvation if worked out according to the eternity long principles of Law, Order, Procommanding the 183rd Brigade, 92nd Division, brands it as false. The final a safe counselor; then we know the general order of Gen. Ballous, commanding the 92nd Division, gives the lie Green alone, in the work long in the entry live, strict manhood and Justice. We at last know the general order of Gen. Ballous, commanding the 92nd Division, gives the lie Green alone, in the work long in the entry live, strict manhood and Justice. We at last know the general order of Gen. Ballous, commanding the 92nd Division, gives the lie Green long, in the work long, in the power that is within us. We can no longer be lulled into dangerous silence to your editorial; the cabled information to the War Department from Republican in the state. Then say merely taught to earn money just when our existence is threatened nor aroused to the extent that we lose our Gen. Pershing in Augusta, 1918, brands is as false. The fact that of the we, "Lay on McDuff." centage of our prejudiced neighbors. We feel that at this time and in de Guerre were Colored regiments-369th, 370th and 371st-brands your an advanced stage of civiliza- this year more than in other years the nearly 15,000,000 of us should most editorial and Col. Greer's supporting letter as false. Despite the act that the op- heartily join in a song of Thanksgiving to the Father of the Universe for our marked progress during the perilous times just passed and invoke his "Harvey's Weekley," was issued, the War Department gave out a report of practice of American politics were or spendthrifty; a saver or a waster; our marked progress during the perilous times just passed and invoke his "Harvey's Weekley," was issued, the War Department gave out a report of never better presented than they were a soldier in the great army of those by Will H. Hays, chairment of the 92nd Division by between the development of the two races has most wonderfully diminished. In fact the development of no doubt but that our journey during the next twelve months will be just of alleged cowardice, which you, with your Greer vouchsafed information. Republican National Committee, in exists at the expense of those who ed and encouraged by our progress though meager during the year just passed we will face it, heads up, hearts filled with the thought that nothing worth endured heroically, and those who fell to rise no more died stoically inditions that the master recognizes while is accomplished without sacrifice and struggles and we shall be win- different to fate since they were dying for their country. The 92nd Division's in the posterity of his former slave ners indeed if to the generations which are to come we can band down brilliant, valorious stand in the inferno, Bois Frehaut, the goods which any party; as broad, in fact, as the our feet until we learn the saving possible rival that may outstrip an unmarred record of perpetual progress, undaunted faith, ever increased neither the French nor fighting Senagalese could hold, but which the 92nd this purview of the future, despite resolution, cheerfulness in sacrifice, courage unsurpassed in facing fearful did hold, is sufficient to give it a place in history as a fighting unit, and all arguments to the contrary, that odds though handicapped in our never-to-be-ended struggle for practical to long remain green in memory after Harvey's Weekly and its assumed given rise to the great race Democracy in America. Let the days that are to come find us law-abiding, silent contributing editor, Col. Greer, have been forgotten. cheerful, alert, but determined that nothing short of full citizenship shall slavery content us. Increased progress by increased production, cool, level-headed, who were at the front, and of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who, unlike Col. Greer, ism. For Mr. Hays made very clear, those who purchased liberally of commanding officers who purchased liberally of commanding officers. there are those who have viewed organized, peaceful striving must be ours and as this Thanksgiving is, others have no particular reason to detailed brave have no particular reason to detail brave have no pa ment of the Negro race. That they "O Lord we thank thee" because we are conscious within ourselves of a the editor of Harvey's Weekly, who was more than three thousand miles of a party is service, that it is only thing helps a person to acquire the

week of those Negro Officers and men of the 92nd Division means much to on which they bravely fought and heroically fell, would rise up and scorn us. Suffice it to say that in all the fighting experience of Negroes, and they at me, call me traitor—just what they and living are calling you today. An have fought in every American war, there has never been a single instance editor ought to be advised before he lies on the brave. bjected has not been determined. have fought in every American war, there has never been a single instance owever, it may be truthfully as- of cowardice and to fel that in this great struggle they had marred such a wonderful record would mean loss of faith in the present generation. It would mean too that the Negro had changed in fighting stamina when such is not the case.

any and all his yet discovered de-linquencies to society. That the Ne-truck would not be able to grasp fully has come out. The fact remains and is known now to the whole world The comment of many prejudiced officers has done much to discredit MICHIGAN PROFESSOR SAYS LYNCHING REVEALS MENTAL INADEthe significance and the responsi-bility that citizenship entails in a that the Negro is one of the most splendid fighting machines in the world, He always has been and always will be. That characteristic is as naturally his as his cheerfulness. His rough bring up and general environment can happen," Professor Charles McKenny of Ypsilianti, Mich., told 400 Nehave rendered him so, and future coditions do not point to a speedy change

We are glad that the War Department has taken this step.

Did you realize that there are thousands of the boys from over seas who are thankful for the change in menu from "Corned Willie" to a real American Thanksgiving dinner this year?

Brown sugar is a great pacifier for little boys who cry, but as a sweetner for coffee and sweet potato custard-"you can hae it I don't want it."

Little due bills still remind thee, thou must work hard all the time an departing leave thee more bills on the files of thine,

The High Cost of Living and Prohibition have "just ruined" Thanksgivin dinners of the "old fashioned kind." If the coal famine continues Santa Claus will have clean chimneys for

use during his Xmas visits. America includes Influenza in the list of things that she is thankful that she has not

# THE MIRROR OF **PUBLIC OPINION**

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THE MOBERLY MOB.

It will be impossible for those who participated in the lynching at National Republican convention, you say justification whatever for that lawless set Event will doubtless partition to the next ment be operated by memories. A ment be operated by memories and set of the party is an organization of living serily to give any justification whatever for that lawless set Event will doubtless partitions and series are series and series and series and series and series are series and series and series and series are series and series and se Moberly to give any justification whatever for that lawless act. Even the will doubtless permit me to add a people, not of dead ones, and we can the robbers were Negroes and the victim a white man, but hundreds of holdups of white men by other white men have occurred recently, in some of which lives were lost. Mob law is not justified at any time, but sometimes there is sentimentally an excuse for it when a special brutal crime. Few words of communications.

Some twenty years ago this man of giant statue, but a boy in age and a youth in political parlance, appeared on the political horizon, with this advantage only; that his dideas of Republican principles were has been committed and there is danger of a failure of regular justice. That the tutelage of a few of the "old excuse does not exist in this case. The men were in jail and there was no reason to suppose that they would not be promptly tried and convicted.

ognized, indicates a state of local sympathetic and protective sentiment which gives small promise of punishment unless the state authorities take hold of the matter with vigor. Law and order and the regular process of justice through the courts must be preserved in Missouri.-Globe Democrat.

# TYLER DEFENDS RACE SOLDIERS.

Columbus, Ohio-Ralph W. Tyler has sent the editor of Harvey's Weekly the following letter, condemning his brutal attact on Colored soldiers: Editor Harvey's Weekly,

New York N V

Sir: In the November 1st number of your pamphlet, which you dignify with the name of "Harvey's Weekly," you print one of the most brutal and unsupported editorial attacks ever made on the Colored soldier and the Colored race, under the caption, "The Negro Soldier."

I am in doubt as to whether you wrote the editorial, or whether Col. Allen J. Greer, late chief of staff for the 92nd (Colored) Division, wrote it. If you did write it, then Col. Greer must have furnished the alleged information, for on applying "the deadly parallel," I find that throughout your editorial you use, verbatim et literatim, the contents of that letter Col. Greer wrote Senator McKeller, under date of Dec. 6, 1918. But Col. Greer, lacking consistency, which is even an admirable trait in a soldier as well results, these forces to eliminate the head and destroy the party. To for efficiency, deportment and bravery; he had issued orders to confer the D. S. C. on scores of Colored officers and men for "exceptional" bravery Donald in particular; he being the American patriotism. "This is no in the face of the enemy, signing these orders and memorandum with his leading counselor in (the camp of full name and affixing his military title thereto to attest to their genuineness Col. Green. Be it said to their No, it is a time for big things, a

Col. Greer's letter to Senator McKeller, under date of Dec. 6, 1918, and to which your, or his, editoriol suggests the deadly parallel, was written the will of its designers. never enjoyed-democracy.

I can understand the prompting for Col. Greer's antagonism to the Colored soldier and Colored race, if a report that was generally circulated one word of derision or ridicule when they both met at the home of a certain French woman, the colonel and chief of staff being camouflaged in a lieutenant's uniform, as the report alleged, and for which thrashing, it is alleged, the Colored officer was Kentucky would now be exchanging prompting for Col. Greer's antagonism for the Colored race, even if I can not understand his inconsistency in first extolling the Colored soldiers of sir, as dead as a "March hare" and Blount, in an article in "The Southunless you have been hypnotized by Col. Greer, who evidently either wrote

whose bones are now fertilizing the soil of France to help "make the world The Populliana will do the

your editorial or supplied the lying information.

The general orders of Gen. Shelburn, commanding the 167th Artillery build up the party and make it nusense of our relationship to others by sporadic outbreaks of a certain per- only three American regiments whose colors were decorated with the Croix

Unfortunately, for you, only a few days after your pamphlet, styled

The 92nd Division, Colored, the first to sail for France, fought splendidly,

The puble will prefer to accept the testimony of war correspondents eral principles then, we say, there is the thing that the editor of Harvey's Weekly, who was more than three thousand miles a means to an end, not an end in itself, and that unless it justifies a habit of saving generally and it is itself by its conduct and its deeds itself by its conduct and its deeds any other good habit. It requires from the scene of conflict.

forms of the black soldiers who bravely, heroically fell in the Argonne, it has failed in its mission and is constant effort on the part of individ-The official investigation and acquital from the charge of cowardice last at Campaign, in No Man's Land, in Boise Frehaut and other bloody fields

> Respectfully. RALPH W. TYLER

"Education and the public school system have failed when race riots braska teachers last Thursday in the First Methodist church. His talk was a plea for the social sciences.

The killing of even one Negro reveals mental inadequacy in the mob that kills," he said. "We white persons cannot logically hope to kill every story of Roosevelt, who, when a very story of Roosevelt, who are the very story of Roosevelt, who are the very story of Roosevelt Roosevel that kills," he said. "We white persons cannot logically hope to kill every earn to live with the other.

Living together does not mean intermarriage or domestic friendships between whites and blacks. It merely means that we must arrive at an velt, "and you are not, because they be in the act of reaching in between whites and blacks. It merely means that we must arrive at an velt, "and you are not, because they breamland for the frosted glass conintelligent and sympathetic understanding of the problems that basically cause race riots. We must appreciate the fact that the Negroes will not exist if the people did not perconsent forever to be in economic and social bondage. We must not hinder them in their social struggle. We must educate ourselves and allow them patriotism in peace as well as in to be educated. We must give the Negro the right to prove that the emerge from its present status.

"I remember well your Omaha riot. A young man of this city, who has a college educattion wrote me. His letter said: I wish I could get a peace interest themselves continually crack at that nigger." The remark proved to me that insofar as his edu-

cation was concerned, our schools had failed. "A dispatch from Omaha to a New York paper stated that Omaha women approved of the riot and the killing of the suspected Negro. I do not know whether that article reflected the truth. I may, however, hope that Omaha's women did not approve."

# **POLITICAL PATTER**

In view of the fact that many prominent Republicans are advocating the Principles are of no value unless election of Col. E. H. R. Green as they are applied. Non can be a principle of the control of the co a delegate from Texas, to the next sacred in a label. Nor can govern-

ideas of Republican principles were inburon, but undeveloped, but under the tutelage of a few of the first and there are the first and the first are the masters" soon became a political greater than those with which our fathers had to deal. "Of all times

Aside from his great business inbegan organizing.

In the hearts of the Democrats,

dishonor, their trap was an effective time when big things must be done dishonor, their trap was an enective piece of mechanism and accomplished if we are to prove worthy of our the will of its designers.

aside averted the impending catastrophe, and yet in contradistinction

the work of the old Master's is cial problems of the Negro citizens of America. "A penny that is earned being made effective.

These extraordinary and indispublic achievements of Col. Green to it than one obtained by soliciting.

> men attempt to repudiate him, be-cause he gave his best efforts to running errands, the value of the merically respectable, and because

# J. T. H. POLITICS AND PATRIOTISM.

his address to the Republican editors work. of Illinois at Springfied, Friday night. It was a party address, delivered by the head of the party organization, but it was broader and higher than whole sweep of America and as habit, until we learn to save every high as the ideals that have made nickle, every dime, every dollar that America what it is. It was a party address, yet if any Democrat can read it without approval of its genis something lacking in his American-records show that they were among unworthy of support. We are too uals to acquire, cultivate and mainprone to think that the measure of party success is the election of party "If your besetting sin is American candidates, but that is only the peo-extravagance, the surest method of ple's commission. The thing that counts comes afterward. "I say that a successful political party's objecthod of saving is better than none tive," said Mr. Hays, "is a record of cause the time will surely come when the faithful discharge of a sacred contractual obligation to the people. "If you wish to brown." There is but one kind of successful you are going to succeed in life or politics of faithful, efficient and hon- not ask yourself the question: 'Am

practical politics," but who is to in influence and power for the blame if these men and these meth- sessor; therefore it behooves the ought not to mix with the class of people he would meet there. "They are the governing class," said Roose- is to be in the act of reaching in will and you won." Dishonest poli- taining a "Royal Fizz" ticians and corrupt politics would alarm clock announces 7 bells and mit them to exist. "I plead for a war," said Mr. Hays. "Let us have ing our "favorite lady" a gift of the patriotism which moves men to some sugar for Xmas. Its scarce make their country's welfare their enough to be appreciated. own business and in prosaic times of munity. Good government is possible in no other way. \* \* Government is possible in no other way. \* Gover ment functions through individuals.

These individuals are elected through the processes of practical politics, a it was your fault, but if you were sequence which cannot be avoided, rich then and are poor now maybe We can have better government only it is because of H. C. L.

if we interest ourselves in politics, in the selection of those to whom this government is intrusted, in having thought and voice in its opera-tion, and in making our country's affairs our own business." That, we say, is not only practical politics, it is practical patriotism. Parties have no virtue in themselves save as they draw virtue from their adherents, only use the past as a stepping stone

in our country's history," said Mr. terest he accepted the honorable po-sition of State Chairman of his party sition of State Chairman of his party and with the crude material at hand institutions and the welfare of our people must weight upon thinking people must weight upon thinking It was a herculean task, fraught citizens this is the supreme moment. with impediments and barriers of every imaginable nature and kind.

Cast in different mode the magnitude. How are they are Cast in different molds, thrown in a new and unhealty atmospehre, he willingly began the work before him.

Dealf to the investment of the complexity and magnitude." How are they to be solved? And by whom? These are solemn questions for "thinking citi-Dealf to the importunities of the zens," and every citizen of the United lilly whites, blind to the insignia of States of America should be a thinkunpopularity, which floated from Tamaliville to Buffalo Bayou, whipped by the winds of delusion. These instruments of attempted co- the processes of "pratical politics" ercion although in his own camp, he that the way to our future must be heeded not and in less than two cleared. Whom are we to choose? years, gathered an army of 167,000 And how are we to make sure that (votes) that struck terror in the hearts of his opposers in both of the old parties. In his name and they are worthy of the trust? Everything depends upon right answers, old parties. In his name and they are political and the struck struck that old parties. In his party, because he was advocating radical Republicant advocating radical Republicants. licanism as applied to the party, party processes can they be answer-which the Lillies, declared was destructive to the social ties of Southern citizenship, and citizenship is a rearm with patriotism, that abiding pabecause in this Modern David, they triotism which needs no war recognized a man, intrepid, courage-ous, daring and skillful as well. arouse it, but is ever-living. The Globe-Democrat is glad that the head But in spite of future destructive of the great Republican organizaaccomplish this piece of deviltry, they trained their guns on the Nestrogs in general and Wm. M. Mc-

## THE SAVING HABIT.

"One among the most valuable les-Had Col. Green been permitted to sons a person can learn at home or remain at the head of the party until in school is that money is the reprethis hour, the governors of Texas and sentative of labor, a tangible compensation for efficient service and party of Lincoln and Grant.

The Republicans will do themselves of efficient service in return for his

"After earning money by working to spend it he is acquiring the habits of a spendthrift. Every parents owes a duty to the child in training it, first to earn largely and then spend The true principles and the right whether or not a child is to be thrifty

"Thrift is just a little savedout

really counts. The

"If you wish to know est administration."

The political party is an instrument. But who makes the instrument by the political party is an instrument but who makes the instrument by the political party is an instrument by the p and with what material is it constructed? There is much easy condemnation of "politicians" and of a race means education, independence ods are often not what they should groes to be thrifty, economical and be? Mr. Hays told a characteristic save all the money they can regard-

Our idea of a real disappointment

We are thinking seriously of mak-

We would appreciate gathering in make "both ends meet."

If you were poor five years ago